

# **DRAFT**

## **Rockville Environment Commission Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, March 5, 2015 Diamondback Conference Room, City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland**

### **Attendance**

**Commissioners Present:** John Becker, Steve Cardon, Scott Clausen, Alicia Hosmer, Amanda Matheny, Clark Reed, and Lea Rosenbohm, and Steve Sprague

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Guests:** Mark Charles, Environmental Management  
Helen Triolo, Prospective Commissioner

### **Meeting Commencement**

The meeting convened at 7:30 am by Chair Reed.

### **Introduction of Guests**

Introductions were dispensed with since all attendees were familiar with each other.

### **Meeting Agenda Review and Revision**

No changes were made to the draft agenda.

### **Approval of the February 5, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Becker moved and Commissioner Clausen seconded a motion to approve the February 5, 2015 meeting minutes. The motion passed 7-0-1 with Commissioner Sprague abstaining due to an absence.

### **Planning for Science Day and Hometown Holidays**

Science Day is Sunday, April 26 from 1-5 pm.

Hometown Holidays: The Commission staff a booth on Saturday, May 23, from 2-6. Similarly, the second day (Sunday) will be offered to the Bike Advisory Committee.

A film (*Carbonation*) will again be screened Friday evening in the Mayor and Council chambers and Saturday afternoon in the Rockville library. The VIP list should be invited in early April. If available, the Director or Producer of the film should be invited.

Commissioner Hosmer moved and Commissioner Sprague seconded a motion to purchase a rain barrel to be raffled at the Festival. The motion was unanimously approved (8-0-0).

Commissioner Cardon agreed to investigate the existing inventory of Commission Giveaways and make recommendations to purchase any that are needed. The rain barrel demonstration equipment should also be checked to ensure that it is working.

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The Commission needs to approach the Festival staff about getting electricity and a third table at the booth.

Talking points should be provided to Commissioners by Mid-April.

**Residential Solar Initiative**

A public meeting with the COG contractor Community Power Network is scheduled for Saturday, April 18. An article has already been published in *Rockville Reports*. The contractor is finishing up a website where interested residents can get more details of the arrangement. Commissioners need to continue to promote the informational meeting among residents.

Chair Reed suggested the Commission consider participating in the Memorial Day Parade. The deadline for a float application is April 3. He also suggested Commissioners organize into neighborhood captains and approach neighborhood residents and civic organizations.

**Environmental Excellence Award Nominations**

Several nominations have been received by Environmental Management and forwarded to Commissioners. Commissioner Cardon nominated Kris Dighe. Commissioner Hosmer nominated the Rockville Skating Rink. Commissioner Rosenbohm moved and Commissioner Clausen seconded both nominations. After brief discussion, Mr. Dighe's award was approved 8-0-0; and the ice rink (Tristate Ice Management) was approved 7-0-1.

Award investigations are ongoing for the Rockville Bike Committee and a Passive Energy Efficient home located at 214 Harrison Street, recently recognized by *Peerless Rockville*.

**Committee Annual Work Plans**

**Energy**

Chair Reed remains the Committee Chair. He led a discussion of Committee priorities for the other Commissioners, include promoting a goal of 250 solar homes by the end of December 2015; promoting solar generation on City property; continue to investigate the possibility of adding alternative fuel vehicles in the City fleet; and improving the energy efficiency of City buildings by 15%.

**Watershed Protection**

The semi-annual clean-up of Maryvale Creek is scheduled for 10-12 on April 11. Commissioner Matheny remains the chair and informed the other Commissioners of the Committees intended work priorities. The committee expects to continue to organize cleanups for the stream segment adopted by the Commission; explore multifamily participation in the RainScapes program; participate in the

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**Recycling and Composting**

The Committee intends to sponsor a poster contest between students participating in a City administered after school care program. Erica Shingara of Environmental Management and Kate Bouwkemp of the Community Assistance Division will attend each of 4 sessions. In addition, the following Commissioners volunteered to participate with the kids:

March 23 – Amanda Matheny, Steve Cardon and Alicia Hosmer

March 24 - Alicia Hosmer, Steve Sprague, and Helen Triolo

March 25 – Clark Reed and Scott Clausen

March 26 – Lea Rosenbohm

**Sustainability**

The Committee is still organizing itself and has not yet adopted a specific plan for 2015. Projects expected to be worked on include amendments to the City Green Building Ordinance (City Code Chapter 5); the Comprehensive Master Plan; and implementation of the Rockville Pike Plan.

**Election of Commission Chair**

After discussion on the pros and concerns over various candidates, the Commission elected Chair Reed for another one year term as Chair.

**Environmental Management Report**

Erica Shingara has tendered her resignation. Her last day in the office is Thursday, April 2. We will be recruiting a new sustainability coordinator as soon as possible.

Mark Charles also discussed the schedule for the major Earth Day and Earth month activities, including the proclamation expected to be issued on Monday, March 23 by the Mayor and Council. See the City website for specific events.

**New Business**

Commissioner Becker moved and Commissioner Matheny seconded a motion to begin future meetings at 7:00 pm rather than 7:30. The motion was unanimously approved (8-0-0).

**Adjourn**

Commissioner Cardon moved and Commissioner Becker seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously (8-0-0) at 9:55 pm.

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**Next Commission Meeting**

The next Commission meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for **Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 7:00 pm.** This meeting will be held in the Diamondback Conference Room in Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville. The public is invited to attend.